

Courtenay ordered him to consult with Rygge and any other doctors of the University whom he might himself choose as his confidants. Aston, after dining with these counsellors, professed himself convinced, and went to find the Bishops. They were still in the dining hall of St. Frideswyde's monastery, being unable to reach the Chapter House on account of the great crush of undergraduates who crowded in the passages to see what was going forward. John Aston read his recantation before the Bishops, denied the 'presence of bread,' and apologised for his rudeness at Blackfriars. Three days later he was readmitted by Courtenay to all his functions at Oxford.

The seculars had looked on helpless at the defeat of their party. The victory of the regulars was wormwood to them. No longer daring to maintain Wycliffism themselves, they attempted to mar their enemies' triumph by accusing the friars of heresy in other questions. This was always easy, and was done in due form by Rygge. But the Bishops could no longer afford to listen to charges against the mendicant orders, however welcome they would have been a few years back. Courtenay readily accepted the friars' plea that they 'had not asserted these propositions, but had only maintained them for the sake of argument.' * Then the reverend father, perceiving that a great discord had arisen between the University and the regulars, restored harmony between them, though with difficulty, by adjourning Convocation till the next day.¹

These proceedings finally established the Bishops' authority over Oxford. The regulars and the orthodox party had only to complain at Lambeth and Westminster, if Lollardry showed its head again. Two years later the Chaplain of Exeter College was removed by Courtenay for his Wycliffism, and in 1395 King Richard, strenuous as ever in defence of the faith, forced the Chancellor of the University to proclaim Wyeliffe's errors, to condemn his * *Dialogus*, which was in great demand among the students, and to banish certain Lollards.² Heresy was kept under by force; otherwise,

¹ Courtenay's Register,*MS. Lambeth. Libr., f. 34 b, 35 a; Wilkins* reproduction is incomplete.

Oxford Hist. Series, Boase's *Exeter Coll.*, p. 20; Ayliffe's *University of* appendix, pp. xxvi-xxviii.